

June 24, 2024

Organic Tilth  
PO Box 368  
Corvallis, OR 97339

Dear Organic Tilth:

This is a formal complaint concerning Humboldt Auction Yard, LLC ([NOP ID 8150001862, OT-018965](#)) which is Oregon Tilth Certified Organic [OTCO] for Livestock Auction, Livestock Transportation, and Marketing.

We request that you investigate Humboldt Auction Yard's pattern of animal mistreatment, neglect and indifference to chronic animal suffering over the past five years.

Humboldt Auction Yard came to our attention through [our investigation of Alexandre Family Farm](#). Our investigative report was cited throughout in an extensive article in [The Atlantic](#) released the next day. Both our report and *The Atlantic's* article refer to Humboldt Auction Yard throughout, although never by name.

Investigating our report required us to attend an auction at Humboldt Auction Yard in December 2023. There, we witnessed firsthand a cow being auctioned off with a glued-on denim eye patch over her right eye, later revealed to have ruptured with contents of the eye extruding beyond her eye's outer membrane. Her left eye was also quite swollen, though the globe had not ruptured. This cow was clearly unfit for transport or sale, but the video we took of her is just one of hundreds of photos and videos in our possession of cows at Humboldt Auction Yard suffering from conditions such as:

- eye disease and trauma
- severe lameness
- emaciation and poor body condition resulting from disease and/or malnourishment
- dehorning as mature adults through innervated tissue, long after their horn buds had fused to their skulls, in at least one case still bleeding.

There are additional videos of cows at Humboldt Auction Yard with conditions more difficult to categorize, such as a cow with an objectively severe case of spinal injury, incurred 6–12 months prior, resulting in the cow's ongoing tail paralysis, ataxia, and fecal and urinary incontinence.

You can find additional explanation in [our report](#). We ask that you give pages 18-24 and 27-30 particularly close scrutiny, since all of the cows referred to in those pages (excepting sidebar photos and the calf on page 28) were observed and filmed at the Humboldt Auction Yard.

Please review our report and take all appropriate actions in response.

We look forward to hearing back from you,, and we will be happy to address any questions that you may have.

We would be grateful for a timely response.

Best,



Andrew deCoriolis  
Executive Director